

O 170859Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY MALABO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0448
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MALABO

UNCLAS MALABO 000013

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS COMMAND CENTER/ JERMAINE WALKER
AF DUTY, CHRIS LAMORA
CA/OCS, RYAN HALEY
CMS, DOUG KONEFF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PREL EK CASC PGOV PINR

SUBJECT: MALABO: ATTACK IN THE VICINITY OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

REF: TELCON: O. MOSS: CA/OCS RYAN HALEY; AF DUTY, CHRIS LAMORA;
CMS, DOUG KONEFF; DS COMMAND CENTER, J. WALKER

¶1. In the early morning hours of February 17, 2009, an apparent attack was launched in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. While reports remain sketchy, at least two speedboats with armed attackers were apparently engaged by EG military before dawn. Gunfire, to include automatic weapons fire, could be heard for more than an hour from various points downtown near the old port. In response, the GREG has closed the ports of Malabo and Luba as well as airports at Bata and Malabo.

¶2. GREG officials report the situation is now under control, and post can confirm that gunfire has subsided. Increased military presence is in evidence around the city. A warden message will be sent out as soon as possible requesting U.S. citizens limit travel to essential activities and to remain vigilant. Post will also distribute the language via local OSAC channels.

SMITH